

Office of the Secretary of Defense

12 November 73

Memo For: Dr. John Clarke

John:

1 [redacted] and all have modified and rewritten.

I hope you approve. If changes cannot be handled over the phone, I shall be happy to run over. Sorry it took so long.

/s/ Mort Goulder

IC Staff internal action:

From: Clarke

To : [redacted] Action)

-- Your views.

-- Track through with Briggs.

-- See me with your suggestions.

/s/ JMC

Copy of draft ASD(I)
proposed ltr from DCI
to Chmn, PFIAB

Dear Admiral Anderson:

Thank you for your letter of 25 September. The recommendations of the Board and its Science Panel on COINS are very helpful to me in focusing on this complex subject. I appreciate that your interest has been a major impetus to our efforts on COINS.

Considerable progress has been made over the past six months. With the ASD(I) managing COINS as my Executive Agent, it has been changed from a pure experiment to that of implementing an operating system. The system security level has been raised to TK, thereby permitting important NPIC files to be made broadly accessible. Other new files have come on-line and usage has more than doubled. We are now working with CIA toward bringing their file systems directly into the COINS community. As a result of the improvement of COINS the dissemination of Air Movement Reports (Electrical and Paper) which was costing us \$1M per year has been terminated. Many other duplicate computer files have been eliminated as one agency has been able to query another's files and other files have been consolidated into single master files. The operation of the COINS network switch has been increased from eight hours per day to 18 hours a day thereby increasing COINS utility to Commands in different time zones, such as PACOM.

New plans for major COINS expenditures are reviewed by the Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee (IRAC). Interagency groups are actively studying such problems as management and organization, performance standards and control, security, retrieval languages, user support, network operations, improved terminals, etc. We have recently approved the COINS II proposal for upgrading the COINS communication network which will permit interactive systems and high speed terminals to be used on COINS and will eliminate the need for direct terminal access to each community system. Other On-Line Computer File Systems are being studied for inclusion on COINS. These include:

(1) [redacted]

- A NISC system for reporting ship movements and locations.
- A FTD system for providing the S&T community with R&D related foreign literature.
- A CIA system providing an index to information reports, finished intelligence and intelligence periodicals.

There are certain fundamental questions which need answering to provide long-range guidance for COINS. These include:

- Should COINS lead the computer R&D field in developing multi-agency, multi-program, and multi-level security systems, or should COINS wait to take advantage of computer technology developed under general R&D funding?

-- Should COINS seek to tie together all the retrieval languages used today by host processors, or should one retrieval language be forced on the entire community?

-- Who are the users COINS is to serve in the future, after having had its original development aimed at providing support to the intelligence analyst? Should COINS be designed for decision makers or product users of foreign intelligence? Should users include the S&T community, R&D Laboratories, Industry, etc.?

-- Should COINS material be directly accessible to the Commands to provide access to warning and tactical material? This course would have marked impact on its structure, multi-level security, access language, etc. Where should interagency automation and data exchange stop? Should everyone have access to all files, even personal or scratch pad files?

-- How do we maintain the quality of COINS files and develop degrees of quality?

I am appointing a senior advisory panel to provide counsel to me and [redacted] on these matters.

I believe it will be useful if your panel would review plans and progress in about six months time and I would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby